

U.S. Serial No. 09/900,368
Response To Office Action Dated: 09/03/2004
Family Number: P1999J003 US2

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) A filter device for use in a three phase slurry bubble column reactor comprising [, which includes] at least one filter section [comprising] having a plurality of hollow, elongated filter elements disposed on a hollow manifold, with said manifold connected to a hollow filtrate conduit wherein the interior of said elements, manifold and conduit are in fluid communication and wherein each said filter element has a wall at least a portion of which is permeable to the passage of liquid therethrough, but not solids, from outside said element to said hollow interior, and wherein said device is capable of being vertically and removably secured in the reactor.

Claims 2-5 (cancelled)

Claims 6-18 (previously cancelled)

Claim 19 (new) The filter device of claim 1 wherein said filter device includes a plurality of filter sections.

Claim 20 (new) The filter of claim 19 wherein said manifold is horizontally oriented and said conduit is vertically oriented.

Claim 21 (new) The filter of claim 20 wherein said filter elements are vertically disposed and horizontally arranged across a manifold.

Claim 22 (new) The filter of claim 21 wherein the filter elements are in the form of hollow cylinders closed at one end with the other end opening into the manifold.